

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 13, 2005. Claims 45, 46, 48, 49 and 51 to 65 are in the application, of which Claims 45, 48 and 52 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

All claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,228,118 (Sasaki) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,580,177 (Gase) and Japan 5-181628 (Tokuda). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

The invention concerns a determination as to the presence or absence of a printer on a network, and an identification of the printer language supported by such a printer. According to one aspect of the invention, the presence or absence of a printer connected to the network is determined by sending an inquiry. According to a second aspect of the invention, an identification is made as to the printer language supported by sending an inquiry for which information about the printer language is sent in response. According to a further aspect of the invention, in a case where the information about the printer language supported by the printer is not received, control is effected so as to end processing of the printer language support inquiry.

By virtue of the foregoing arrangement, the invention is capable of making a determination of the presence or absence of a new printer connected to a network. Moreover, if there is a new printer, an inquiry is made concerning the printer's printer language. In preferred embodiments of the invention, if it is determined that the received printer language is interpretable by a printer driver which executes the program, printer information such as the received printer language is stored in storage means. On the other

hand, if information concerning the printer language supported by the printer has not been received, processing ends. In addition, in this situation where information concerning the printer language supported by the printer has not been received, preferred embodiments of the invention also display a message indicating the presence of an unidentifiable printer.

Thus, as set forth in the independent claims herein, the presence or absence of a printer connected to a network is determined by sending an inquiry. An inquiry is made about the printer language supported by the printer by sending the inquiry about the printer language to the network. Further control is responsive to whether the information is or is not received about the printer language supported by the printer. In a case where information about the printer language supported by the printer is not received, processing of the printer language support inquiry is ended.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the foregoing arrangement, and in particular is not seen to disclose or to suggest an arrangement that determines the presence or absence of a printer connected to the printer by sending an inquiry, and which ends processing of the printer language support inquiry in a case where information about a printer language is not received in response to an inquiry therefor.

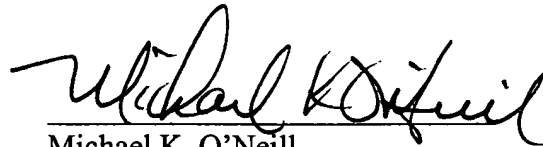
In entering the rejection over Sasaki, Gase and Tokuda, the Office Action conceded that the Sasaki does not teach the determination of the presence or absence of a printer connected to a network by sending an inquiry. Gase was relied on in support of this feature, but Applicants maintain their position that Gase is not seen to disclose or to suggest sending of an inquiry in order to determine presence or absence of a printer connected to the network. Applicants' position is stated for the record in prior responses to Office Actions, and is incorporated herein by reference.

Moreover, it is Applicants' further position that no permissible combination of the applied art discloses or suggests the functionality that should be pursued in a case where information about the printer language supported by the printer is not received in response to an inquiry therefor. According to the invention herein, in a case where the information about the printer language supported by the printer is not received, processing of the printer language support inquiry is ended. Nothing in any of Sasaki, Gase and Tokuda discloses or suggests such functionality, much less that such functionality should be pursued in a case where information about the printer language supported by the printer is not received.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the claims herein recite subject matter that would not have been obvious from any permissible combination of the applied art, and allowance of the claims herein is therefore respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael K. O'Neill", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael K. O'Neill
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 32,622

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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